

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 AID-20 DRC-01 /178 W

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R 221530Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6780

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L L O M E 1 7 8 8

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TO, IS

SUBJ: TOGO BREAKS RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

REF: LOME 1781

1. COMMUNIQUE ON TOGOLESE REPTURE WITH ISRAEL (REFTEL), WHICH WAS ISSUED AFTERNOON 21 SEPTEMBER FOLLOWS:

"CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF RPT,

"AFTER HAVING REVIEWED SITUATION PREVAILING IN MIDDLE EAST, SITUATION WHICH RESULTS ESSENTIALLY FROM SO-CALLED SIX-DAY WAR AND FROM NON-APPLICATION OF SC RES 242 OF 22 NOV 1967, RES WHICH DEMANDS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, WITHDRAWAL OF ARMED ISRAELI FORCES FROM ARAB TERRITORIES (DES TERRITORIES ARABES) OCCUPIED IN COURSE OF THIS SIX-DAY WAR,

"CONSIDERING THAT OCCUPATION OF A TERRITORY BY FORCE

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CONSTITUTES VERY DANGEROUS PRECEDENT IN INTERNATIONAL

RELATIONS,

"CONSIDERING THAT ON 12 SEPTEMBER CHIEF OF STATE EXPRESSED TO AMBASSADOR OF ISRAEL TOGO'S CONCERN IN VIEW OF PROLONGED OCCUPATION OF ARAB TERRITORIES AND THAT RESPONSE OF ISRAELI FONMIN ABBA EBAN TO HIS TOGOLESE COUNTERPART JOACHIM HUNLEDE IS NOT OF NATURE TO ALLAY CONCERNS OF GOT,

"DECIDES TO BREAK, AS OF THIS DAY, DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL."

2. TOGOLESE RADIO IS EXPLAINING BREAK AS RESULT UNSATISFACTORY ISRAELI RESPONSE TO TOGOLESE WARNING. ISRAELI AMBASSADOR RASH, ON WHOM I CALLED THIS MORNING TO EXPRESS MY REGRET OVER TOGOLESE ACTION, SAYS HE DELIVERED EBAN REPLY TO HUNLEDE ON 20 SEPTEMBER. REPLY WAS ESSENTIALLY THAT WHILE ISRAEL ACCEPTED SC RES 242, IT COULD ONLY BE APPLIED IN CONTEXT OF AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD PROVIDE JUST AND DURABLE PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST. ISRAEL COULD NOT UNILATERALLY WITHDRAW FROM TERRITORIES WHILE ARABS REFUSED DISCUSS SETTLEMENT WITH THEM. EBAN OFFERED TO MEET HUNLEDE IN NEW YORK AT UNGA NEXT MONTH AND GIVE HIM FURTHER EXPLANATION. ACCORDING RASH, HUNLEDE AGREED TO MEET WITH EBAN AND GAVE NO INDICATION DURING INTERVIEW THAT RUPTURE IMMINENT. ON 21 SEPTEMBER, WHEN HUNLEDE SUMMONED RASH TO INFORM HIM OF DECISION BREAK RELATIONS, HUNLEDE, WHO IS NOTED FOR HIS CROCODILE TEARS, ATTEMPTED DISASSOCIATE HIMSELF PERSONALLY FROM DECISION, SAYING HUNLEDE, THE CHRISTIAN, REMAINED GREAT FRIEND OF ISRAEL AND DEPLORED RUPTURE. HOWEVER, JUNLEDE, THE STATESMAN, HAD TO CARRY IT OUT. RASH SAYS HE MADE FIRM PROTEST AGAINST RUPTURE AS TOTALLY UNJUSTIFIED ACTION.

3. LIMITED TOGOLESE COMMENT I HAVE HEARD THUS FAR IS HIGHLY UNFAVORABLE TO RUPTURE WHICH IS CONSIDERED MOTIVATED SOLELY BY HOPE OF GENEROUS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM LIBYA. THIS GROUP OF TOGOLESE TENDS TO BE STRONGLY CATHOLIC GROUP WHICH HAS NOT ONLY MAINTAINED CLOSE FRIENDSHIPS WITH ISRAEL AND ITS REPRESENTATIVES, BUT WHICH IS ALWAYS QUITE READY, WITHIN LIMITS OF DISCRETION REQUIRED BY UNLIMITED POLICE POWERS OF GOVERNMENT, TO CRITICIZE REGIME. ALTHOUGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WITH MOST TO LOSE WILL PROBABLY BE CAUTIOUS ABOUT SAYING SO, CONFIDENTIAL

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I THINK THEY WILL NEVERTHELESS AGREE THAT RUPTURE'S SOLE MOTIVATION IS FINANCIAL. ENEV GOT'S MOST ORDENT TOGOLESE SUPPORTERS WILL NO DOUBT CONSIDER ACTION AT BEST PRAGMATIC. CYNICAL DIPLOMATIC CORPS HAVE TAKEN FINANCIAL MOTIVATION VIEW EXCLUSIVELY DESPITE GOT EFFORTS PLACE ACTION UNDER LEGAL GUISE OF UPHOLDING UN. ONE WESTERN AMBASSADOR - BETTER NOT IDENTIFIED - WHO SAW PRESIDENT ON STREET LAST NIGHT, TOLD ME HE ASKED HIM HOW MUCH TOGO GOT FOR RUPTURE. HE SAYS PRESIDENT, OBVIOUSLY

ANGRY, TOLD HIM TO COME SEE HIM MONDAY MORNING, PROBABLY
TO BAWL HIM OUT.
DICKINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS INTERRUPTION, FOREIGN RELATIONS, WAR, UNGA RESOLUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LOME01788
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS DICKINSON
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LOME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730917/aaaaalwy.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: LOME 1781
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Jan-2002 by willialc>; APPROVED <04-Feb-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TOGO BREAKS RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL
TAGS: PFOR, TO, IS, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005